

The Victorian Naturalist.

VOL. XXI.—No. 9. JANUARY 12, 1905.

No. 253.

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 12th December, 1904.

Mr. F. Wisewould, one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair, and about 70 members and visitors were present.

REPORTS.

A report of the excursion to Warburton, from 12th to 14th November, was read by Mr. G. Coghill, one of the leaders, who said that the party had spent a very enjoyable outing. Attention was chiefly devoted to botany. A large number of plants in flower were collected, the most notable being *Oxylobium ellipticum* and *Eriostemon hillebrandi*, F. v. M., the last-named not having been previously recorded from the "S." district of the State. Insects were comparatively scarce, only the commoner kinds of butterflies and beetles being noted.

A report of the excursion to Cheltenham on Saturday, 19th November, was read by the leader, Mr. W. Stickland, who stated that so far as the pond-life section of the excursion was concerned the most notable find was a species of Protozoa quite new to local workers. This was a *Phalanasterium*, closely resembling *P. digitatum* of Stein, and is a wonderfully small animalcule, measuring from $\frac{1}{2500}$ to $\frac{1}{3000}$ inch. It occurred as social clusters consisting of many dichotomously branching tubes, at the ends of which the zooids are situated, each protruding a single long flagellum. Though belonging to the collared monads, its collar does not spread outwards, forming a funnel, as in other members of the group, but is constricted to the shape of a narrow truncated cone, from the centre of which the flagellum arises. Several fine desmids were taken, of which *Docidium nodosum* and *Penium nügeli* were the most prominent. The botanists of the party did very well, recording over thirty species worthy of note, among these being *Limnanthemum exaltatum*, *Viminaria denudata*, *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Pimelea curviflora*, *Diuris maculata*, and *Microtis porrifolia*.

A report of the excursion to Emerald on Saturday, 26th November, was given by Mr. G. Coghill, who stated that Mr J. P. M'Lennan had acted as co-leader of the party, being well acquainted with the flora of the district. A very large number of plants were found, either in bloom or just over, among which might be mentioned *Eriostemon correfolius*, *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Sphaerolobium vimineum*, *Pultenaea villosa*, *Bossicea*